

**Title: Overview of the SeaWinds and the Planned AlphaSCAT Instruments and Missions**

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The presentation will provide an overview on the present and proposed future scatterometer missions and instruments. It will provide status on the QuikSCAT mission, which was launched in 1999, and the SeaWinds instrument on the Japanese ADEOS-II spacecraft scheduled to be launched in 2002. Concluding with a description of the proposed Ocean Vector Winds Mission and the transition to the measurement to the operational community.

The NASA Earth Observation System (EOS) comprises of a family of instruments which are intended to provide long-term monitoring of the earth's global environment and processes. As one component of EOS, the scatterometer measures near-surface vector winds over the ice-free global oceans. The ocean vector-wind measurement plays a crucial role in many oceanographic and meteorological investigations. Previous Ku-band scatterometers such as the NASA Scatterometer (NSCAT) launched in 1996 and SeaWinds on QuikSCAT (QSCAT) launched in 1999 have shown the utility and capability of wind measurements from space.